COS Speakers Series presents

Linking Wetland Restoration and Bioenergy Production:
Invasive Cattails in Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands

by Shane Lishawa

Thursday, 21-Nov-2013, 7:30 PM, Science 210 (7-210), Weed campus

Cattails are an invasive species in Great Lakes wetlands where they crowd out native species and can cause economic harm. In this presentation, Shane Lishawa will give a first-hand account of how cattails can be harvested to both offset the cost of wetland restoration and produce biofuels that reduce fossil fuel use. The presentation will explore what invasive species are, what effects they have on the environment, how damaged habitats can be restored and how, in the process, some invasive species can be used for bioenergy production. Although the Great Lakes region will be the focus of this presentation, the topics of invasive species, habitat restoration and biomass energy production are relevant to many ecosystems.

Shane Lishawa is a Research Associate in the Institute of Environmental Sustainability at Loyola University Chicago and an adjunct instructor of Biology at College of the Siskiyous. He studies the ecological effects of invasive plants on Great Lakes coastal wetland ecosystems and explores methods for restoring degraded wetlands. In addition, he leads the ‘Invasives-to-Energy’ program at Loyola which evaluates the feasibility of using invasive plant biomass for renewable energy production. He received an MS in Forestry from University of Vermont in 2005 and a BS in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan in 2001.